THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Only one operator, namely M/s. East West Airlines has imported three used B-737 aircraft; out of the three, one aircraft is 17 years of age and the other two are 11 year old from the date of manufacture.

(b) and (c) No flight is released with snags endangering life of passengers. Before Certificate of Airworthiness is issued or revalidated, all documents pertaining to the aircraft issued by the manufacturers and airworthiness authorities of the country of export are thoroughly scrutinised by the officers of the DGCA. The aircraft is also physically inspected, test flown and defects, if any, are rectified. On satisfactory report only, C of A is revalidated.

Compensation payable by Air Taxi operators

2715. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the air passengers travelling by the aircraft operated by the private air taxi operators are entitled to the accident compensation in case of partial/permanent disability or loss of life as a result of air accident;

(b) if so, what is the amount of compensation payable to such victims of air accidents by the private air taxi operators; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to avert air accidents by the private air taxi operators?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The minimum amount of compensation which the operator is liable to pay is as follows:—

(i) In the event of death/permanent injury of passenger of 12 or more years of age Rs. 5,00,000.

(ii) In the event of death/permanent injury of a passenger who is below 12 years of age Rs. 2,50,000.

(ii) In the event of injury which results in temporary disablement Rs. 500.00 per day for the period during which passenger continues to be disabled or a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 whichever is less.

(c) Steps are continuously taken to enhance the level of air safety like implementation of recommendations emanating from investigation of air accidents and dissemination of safety information and monitoring of cockpit voice recorders.

Inland air travel tax levied by air taxi operators

2716. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN:

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic air traveller being carried by private air taxi operators, are levied 15 per cent of the fare as Inland Air Travel Tax;

(b) if so, what is the amount collected by Government from the individual Air taxi operators for the year 1990-91 and 1991-92 month-wise and operator-wise;

(c) whether Government have constituted an Inspectorate or any such agency to verify as to whether the IATT collected by the private operators from the air travellers are duly remitted to the Government;

(d) if so, the name and designation of the agency entrusted with the responsibility; and

(e) if not, by when Government propose to constitute such an agency so as to avoid evasion of the IATT payment collected from the passengers by the private operators?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.